

Amendment to the Abstract:

Please delete the entire abstract and replace it with the following abstract:

Abstract

An improved carrier useful for preparing a catalyst having excellent catalytic performance when used in the production of alkylene oxide, such as ethylene oxide. The carrier is obtained by a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier with at least one modifier selected from among alkali metal silicates and alkaline earth metal silicates, b) drying the ~~[[said]]~~ impregnated carrier; and c) calcining ~~[[said]]~~ dried carrier. The carrier may optionally be washed, prior to being impregnated by conventional catalytic material and/or promoter material.